

MUMMERS PROMISE SURPRISES GALORE IN GREAT PAGEANT

Guard Plans for Floats, But a Few Timely Events to Be Humorously Depicted Are Known.

Secrecy is being maintained by the New Year "shooters" concerning their surprises for January 1. Boxes are locked doors, in shops and stables downtown many peculiar contrivances are being made.

These precautions are taken because in past years many of the floats sent spies to the camps of their rivals to learn the nature of their intended surprises.

And so those who view the big pageant may expect to see Walter Johnson, the star twirler of the Washington Senators, jumping back and forth between the American and Federal Leagues.

Baseball will also be dealt with in numerous other devices. Eddie Collins, with a big bat on his shoulder, will be seen shaking hands with Connie Mack, and accompanying him will be a boy carrying a trunk containing his monthly salary.

A number of clubs intend to deal candidly with "The High Cost of Living" question. One will show a butcher shop fitted out like a jewelry store, where admission is charged to see an assortment of steaks and chops, which used to be eaten by the people.

"STRAP HANGERS," TOO. There will also be a "Strap Hangers Brigade," the scene of action taking place in a trolley car. Things of everyday life will have a large share in the proceedings. There will be no end of air Zepelins and vicious-looking bomb throwers.

PRAISE FOR CITY FIREMEN. Director Porter Commends Their Work at Killen Blaze.

The response and action of the fire companies, who fought the fire which swept the paper factory of Charles M. Killen, 121-33 Filbert street, on Tuesday, was highly creditable, according to a statement made this afternoon by Director Porter, of the Department of Public Safety.

An investigation made by Director Porter showed that two minutes after the fire alarm was given Engine Company No. 20 was upon the scene, and five minutes later water was playing upon the blaze, while within a period of 12 minutes from the arrival of the first company, five others had arrived and had assistance on the building.

He further declared that criticism made by the assistant manager of the firm, John H. Myers, was unwarranted. The high pressure line was covered by the first, but was not used because of the magnitude of the fire was not such as to justify the use of these extremely powerful and destructive streams until absolutely necessary.

CONVICT'S MERRY CHRISTMAS. Man, 18 Years in Jail for Wife Murder, Hopes for Freedom.

Prospect of his release from prison is the Christmas present of Albert S. von Neida, who is charged with murdering his wife, and who has been in the Eastern Penitentiary for 18 years. The State Board of Pardons, sitting at Harrisburg, yesterday recommended that von Neida, who has become almost blind since his incarceration, be pardoned.

JOHN MUIR, NATURALIST, DEAD. Member of Many Scientific Bodies. Noted as Teacher and Author.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 24.—John Muir, the famous naturalist, died today of pneumonia at California Hospital.

Neighborhood Christmas Tree. Through the generosity of citizens, a neighborhood Christmas tree will be on view at the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Andrew, 26th and Baring streets, at midnight tonight. It will also be on exhibition on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings. The tree was erected for the children without regard to race, creed or color.

THE WEATHER. Official Forecast. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Snow or rain this afternoon and tonight. Friday, partly cloudy and much colder, probably preceded by snow in the morning; fresh southeast to northeast winds.

WHITE CHRISTMAS TO GLADDEN HEARTS

Continued from Page One. As soon as it is certain that the storm will be of snow duration.

The central business district, from which the city removes the snow first, is divided into 19 districts. Approximately 800 teams and 200 laborers will be required.

John Hatfield, 60 years old, 135 North 59th street, slipped on the sidewalk at 21 and Market streets this afternoon and suffered a fractured leg. He was removed to the Jefferson Hospital.

Mrs. John Williams, 45 years old, 5714 Tulip street, Wisconsin, fell on a snow-covered pavement at 13th and Market streets while shopping this afternoon and received a fractured left arm. She was removed to the Jefferson Hospital.

Patrick McMann, 47 years old, Media, Pa., fell on the pavement at 4th and Brown streets. He is in the Roosevelt Hospital with lacerations of the left eye.

Mrs. R. L. Williams, 495 Locust street, fell at 13th and Market streets and received a fractured right wrist. She was taken to the Hahnemann Hospital.

John Adams, 41 years old, 215 Euclid avenue, Collingswood, N. J., received a fractured skull when he fell from a snow-covered ladder at 3 North 8th street. He is in the Hahnemann Hospital.

CHARGE OF COLLUSION SUPPORTED BY LETTER. Railroad's Tariff Schedule and Commission's Order Identical.

The last link in the cable of coincidence between the schedule of passenger tariffs submitted to the Interstate Commerce Commission on December 12, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the order of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission on December 12, was established this morning by a letter from the secretary of the Interstate Commerce Commission to Edwin M. Abbott, attorney for the railroads.

The letter established the fact that the suggested changes made by the Pennsylvania Railroad December 4 were identical in every particular with the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission on December 12. In a letter to Mr. Abbott early this week the secretary of the Commission indicated that the two schedules were identical except in the fact that the railroad was willing to re-establish the 100-trip tickets to be good for a full year, while the Commission ordered they should be good for only six months.

The letter today, however, explains this interpretation was incorrect. The Interstate Commission also brought to light the remarkable fact that the Pennsylvania Railroad in submitting the proposed increase in tariffs did so with the explanatory statement that it was taking the action "in deference to the wishes of a number of its patrons." The committee was instructed for the railroads who thought the railroads were in need of contributions.

Mr. Abbott declared upon receiving the letter that the last link in the chain of evidence was in his hand. The explanation of William N. Trinkle, attorney for the Commission, that the railroads simply took a chance in filing their tariffs and did not intend to challenge the Commission's order, he scored as ridiculous.

"LAST MOMENT" FOLK KEEP POST OFFICE CLERKS BUSY. Corridors of Federal Building Packed With the Bundle-laden.

Thousands thronged the Postoffice Building today to get those "last moment" packages and cards off for Christmas. The corridors were packed with bundles before the clock struck twelve. The post desk there was one continuous line of gift senders, elbowing and shoving one another to get better places. At the stamp windows weary clerks passed out long strings of green, red, blue and yellow postage stamps.

Those whose job it is to weigh the mail to ascertain the amount of postage required were tagged out with their wrists tied with heavy parcels, dragging them on and off the scales. The guards in the corridors were kept busy holding the mailers in line, directing them to this or that window, extra receiving stamps and parcel post windows were opened.

TURKEY MAY COST A LIFE. Police Say Schmidt Was Shot Carrying Off Another Man's Fowl.

The murder of a turkey dinner on Christmas Day will probably cause the death of a man, who, the physicians at the Bryn Mawr Hospital say, is Joseph Schmidt, of St. David's street, Manayunk. Schmidt is a laborer, and it is said that his desire to reduce the cost of his Christmas dinner led him to the turkey coop on Jonathan Jones' State road farm early today.

According to the police, Schmidt was leaving the Jones farm with his dinner under his arm, when he was shot in the foot. Schmidt was taken to the Bryn Mawr Hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate the foot. Physicians say they doubt that Schmidt will live until Christmas Day.

FRANK'S LATEST APPEAL. Justice Lamar Hears Plea and Reverses Decision. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Justice Joseph R. Lamar, of the United States Supreme Court, today heard the application of Louis Marshall, an attorney of New York, for an appeal from the order of Judge Newman, of the Federal District Court at Atlanta, Ga., denying the petition of Leo M. Frank, convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan, for a writ of habeas corpus.

JOHN B. STETSON COMPANY DISTRIBUTES 3254 TURKEYS



Forty-four thousand pounds of turkey was presented by the company today to its army of workers. Governor-elect Brumbaugh attended as a guest. He is shown giving a turkey to Miss Marie Cummings.

The group of three consists of J. Howell Cummings, president, wearing glasses; John Gribbel, in center, and W. L. Fray, first vice president. The man with the watch is William Winstanley, who got it as a present from the company 34 years ago.

GREATEST FEAST DAY FINDS WHOLE CITY IN HAPPY MOOD

Rich and Poor Alike Share in Joy Made Possible by Christmas.

Philadelphia is ready for Christmas. For weeks and weeks the town has almost turned itself topsy turvy in its many preparations for this the biggest day of the year. The war in Europe, the action, or lack of action, of Councils, in fact, everything but ordinary things to be of grave importance went the way of the forgotten when the holiday season came up on the calendar.

From League Island to Chestnut Hill, from the Delaware to the Schuylkill no one has escaped its influence. Beginning as early as December 1 a whirl of shoppers have thronged the streets, making out their Christmas lists, and the avenues of Nice and New Orleans at carnival and Mardi Gras times.

But the masks have been down in the City of Brotherly Love and the countenances revealed have been happy ones. Festivities have sung their odes to "Hard Times" and "financial depression," "is true, but no one has stopped to give them heed. Every one has been far too busy making ready for the greatest feast of all.

Such an avalanche of charity and philanthropy has descended upon the city that it is doubtful if one of the 1,000 inhabitants will remain unvisited by Santa Claus.

Men, women, children, corporations, churches, charity organizations, social settlements—every one who had a spare penny to give, and many who did not have put their shoulder to the wheel to bring Christmas into the homes of Philadelphia's poor.

Under the command of General James William Duran, the baskets were given out today from the headquarters, 282 Frankford avenue, and also at the branch office, 81 Race street. In addition, a children's celebration will take place at the 147 North 9th street branch.

PHOTOPH DIDN'T PREDICT A FIRE IN HIS OWN HOME. "Parson" Andrew Jones Loses Much of His Prestige.

"Parson" Andrew Jones, a well-known negro prophet of West Philadelphia, lost much of his prestige this morning when fire swept the third floor of his home at 14 South 39th street without his having predicted the disaster.

The "Parson" predicted a near tidal wave at Atlantic City correctly, and in 1914 he predicted the coming of the present conflict in Europe, which will continue until 1918, according to "de spirits." He says he is not to be blamed for not knowing of the fire because it was accidental, being started by his little daughter, Elizabeth, when she dropped a lighted match when hunting for a dress in a closet.

STORK NEARS WHITE HOUSE. President's Daughter Arrives There for Holiday Visit. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Stutter of the stork's wings was the harbinger of Christmas at the White House today. Mrs. Francis H. Sayre, the President's daughter, arriving for the White family holiday residence.

P. AND R. COAL AND IRON OFFICERS SAID TO BE SUBPOENAED TO BE SUBPOENAED

Rumored Dealers Also Are Under Service—No Inking of Nature of United States Probe.

Officials of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company are said to be under subpoena to appear before the Federal Grand Jury, which has examined several employees of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company. No inking of the nature of the investigation under way has been given out by officials of either company.

The Grand Jury has adjourned for the Christmas holidays, but will reconvene January 4. About 50 employees of the railway having access to records of the company are under subpoena, and service is said to have been made on 29 officials of the coal and iron company.

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A well-defined rumor is being heard in coal circles that dealers also have been called to appear before the Grand Jury. Dispatches from Washington intimate the probe is into a case of alleged impersonation, and that publication of the details would injure the case of the Government.

High officials of the Reading refuse to discuss the case. They intimate they are in the dark as to its object. The United States District Attorney, Francis Fisher Kane, is said to be the only official who knows what is under way and he will give no information.

Certain facts have been supplied to the Interstate Commerce Commission by W. H. Pierson, who with Harold S. Shertz, fought the anthracite coal rate case. It has been suggested the investigation has to do with these facts. It is pointed out, however, that the two local attorneys have assisted the Interstate Commerce Commission in various ways at different times and the general opinion is that the information recently provided by them was for use in the general investigations into the Reading system.

The order calling on the railroads to reduce by 40 cents a ton the hard coal rate from the Pennsylvania fields to this city is to be served before the end of this week, according to a statement by ex-Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker. The order has been drawn and is awaiting the signature of the chairman of the commission.

BOY SCOUTS HELP POOR. Each Lad a Santa Claus in Talking Food to Needy.

Many a needy family will be made glad tonight when two or three figures, clad in khaki, bring a basket of food to the door.

The Boy Scouts, following their custom, will distribute baskets of Christmas dinners to destitute homes. Their work will be under cover of darkness, so that no one need know the plight of the recipients. The distribution of the baskets is on the initiative of the individual troops and is not directed from headquarters.

Headquarters will close this evening and will not open until Saturday morning. In addition to distributing baskets, many of the Boy Scouts will assist at Christmas entertainments, especially those which are for charitable purposes.

CUSTOMER ACCUSES JEWELER. Declares He Was Defrauded in Exchanging Ring.

H. E. Keratin, proprietor of the Palace Jewelry Shop, 901 Market street, was held in 340 ball for court this morning by Magistrate Emely in the Front and Susquehanna streets police station, on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Keratin was arrested on a warrant sworn out by William Gohl, 254 Memphis street, who recently purchased a ring from the store. Not satisfied with the ring, Gohl exchanged it for another. Yesterday, suspecting the second ring to be of less value, he consulted an expert, who it was testified, pronounced the ring of less value than that paid for it.

SMOKING RUINS DELUGED WITH WATER. The ruins of the fire at the wall paper store of Charles M. Killen, 121-33 Filbert street, which was burned out on Tuesday night, began smoking today and an engine company was called out to prevent the blaze starting again.

WILSON, AS SANTA, READY FOR WHIRL TO YOUNG FRIENDS

President Has Auto Stocked With Gifts for Children and Caddies—Capital Xmas Plans.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—President Wilson, within the next few days, is to play Santa Claus. The details were made when it was found that the White House automobiles are laden with toys and Christmas goods and are awaiting only the word of the Chief Executive to start out. The president is the one that the President intended to carry him to and from the parks, and it is well known to the youngsters along the route.

It is the President's plan to surprise the little friends with Christmas gifts. The caddies who, through many months, have carried the presidential golf clubs will not be forgotten. The President has made many trips over the Virginia mountains and all will be remembered.

The President personally presented with his compliments, to every member of the White House and grounds, 100 pound turkeys, the clerical force excepted. To those in the White House who were most intimately associated with the war, there were more personal remembrances.

With the war responsible for changes in the diplomatic set, the gifts that in the past have been exchanged between the various diplomatic representatives were things of the past. Representatives of the warring nations had all decided that they would devote the money actually expended in this way and in equipment to aiding the war sufferers.

In nearly all of the Departments of the Government special Christmas entertainments were held. In accordance with custom of the various departments closed down at 5 o'clock in order that those who desired could complete belated shopping.

The municipality will have a community celebration tonight. On the plaza of the Capitol there has been erected a 60-foot Virginia pine tree, which has been handsomely decorated. About it, commencing at 5 o'clock, will be exercises appropriate to the occasion. The Marine Band will play and a chorus of 1000 trained voices will sing Christmas carols.

WOMAN 101 TODAY WANTS TO RIDE IN AEROPLANE. Ambition of Mrs. Miller, Who Has Seen Development From Steam Coach to Auto.

Mrs. Abigail F. Miller, of Germantown, today is celebrating the 101st anniversary of her birth in the home of her granddaughter, Augusta McFadden, in the Delmar-Morris apartment house, Morris and Price streets, Germantown.

Although the aged woman has outlived all of her children and many of her grandchildren, she takes a keen interest in history, politics and war, comparing present conditions with those of Revolutionary times as told by her father, Ichabod Sutton Cook, who figured prominently in the affairs of State in Boston, Mass. After the death of her first husband, Jesse Cook Parmelee, she married Andrew Miller, a prominent politician and lawyer of this city, who died shortly after the close of the Civil War.

Mrs. Miller has one ambition to fulfill before her death—to ride in an aeroplane. "I have seen the development of the stage coach to the railroad, the horse car to the trolley, and the trolley to the automobile, and I have traveled on steamships," she said today, "but before I die I want to fly through the air and realize the last step in the world of travel."

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR POLICE SERGEANT. A gold watch and chain valued at \$200 were presented to Sergeant John J. Kerns, of the 7th and Carpenter streets station, after robbery this morning by the police of Platoon No. 2. Expressions of loyalty and affection and a tribute to good fellowship were engraved on the watch.

LOCAL FIRE RECORD. A. M. 12:04 N. Valley st.; dwelling of Len David Hodge. 7:20-48 E. Jones st.; dwelling of Mrs. Jones.

Jura of the Better. Theo. J. Sieffert, 1426 Walnut St.

FIAT The Master Car. Simultaneous with our removal to the new FIAT Show-rooms at 1827 CHESTNUT STREET we announce the arrival of the FIAT LIGHT "30," \$3750. "The Popular Motor Car of Continental Europe" FIAT MOTOR COMPANY OF PA. JAMES POTTER, President A. J. DIEBINGER, Vice President

TO OUR FRIENDS. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the generous patronage accorded us during the past year, and extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ADAMS ARBOREO CHOCOLATE CO. 215 South Broad St.

FREEZING CREW RESCUED. Terrifying Experience of Five Men Adrift Near Breakwater. Five men who were drifting out to sea in a small motorboat when they were rescued by the pilotboat Philadelphia, Captain J. H. H. Kelly, are recuperating today at the pilot headquarters, Leves, Del. All were badly frozen while adrift and are in a serious condition. The men left the Fenwick Shoal Lightship, near the breakwater, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning in a small open motorboat to get ashore and go to their homes for Christmas. Before they had gone far the engine stopped, and, although they worked over it for hours, they could not start it. Sprung, drenched the five men, freezing to their clothing. They huddled in the bottom of the boat to keep warm, finally becoming so stiff that they gave up effort to bail out the water that came over the sides. When the pilotboat reached them they were nearly unconscious.

NEGRO WOMAN PLACED RING IN MOUTH AFTER HER ARREST. A \$500 diamond ring which Emma Gerhart, a 40-year-old woman, had hidden in her mouth to save it from confiscation by the police, may cause her death from strangulation. The woman is in the Hahnemann Hospital. Her alleged habit of placing the ring in her mouth was stated by the doctor from her employer, Mrs. Frank Hester, 13 North 13th street. She was arrested in a bathroom washroom when she attempted to swallow the ring. Before doctor James Hester could examine the woman, she had swallowed a tube in the woman's throat to enable her to breathe.

THE WEATHER. Official Forecast. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Snow or rain this afternoon and tonight. Friday, partly cloudy and much colder, probably preceded by snow in the morning; fresh southeast to northeast winds. Light snow has been general in the Lake region and the Ohio basin with light rains from thence southward to the Gulf during the last 24 hours, under the influence of a trough-like barometric depression that covers that entire area. The temperatures have risen at most places under the influence of this disturbance, while in its rear a much colder area covers the Missouri basin and the adjacent Canadian provinces. Snow will probably spread over the north Atlantic slope this afternoon and may become steady with rain, and the cold area will follow Friday afternoon and night. U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin. Observations made at 8 a. m. Eastern time.